

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06624 021147Z

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-14 /069 W

-----087618 021154Z /14

O 011731Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6137

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 06624

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE
HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IPS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON AND FM KAMEL

FOLLOWING ARE STATEMENTS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND
EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AT ISMAILIA ON MARCH 1, 1978.

ATHERTON: WELL, ONCE AGAIN I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT
SADAT FOR RECEIVING ME. I HAVE REPORTED TO HIM ON MY MOST
RECENT TALKS IN JERUSALEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I
REPORTED TO HIM ON OUR DISCUSSIONS OF YESTERDAY AND THIS
MORNING ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. I FIND
PRESIDENT SADAT AS DEDICATED AS EVER TO CONTINUING THE PEACE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06624 021147Z

PROCESS, AS WE ARE. AND, AS I SAID EARLIER I BELIEVE ALSO
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS. I AM ON MY WAY BACK TO JERUSALEM
NOW AND I EXPECT TO BE BACK HERE BEFORE I RETURN TO WASHINGTON
FOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT.

QUESTION: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT
ISRAEL IS READY TO GO BACK TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE, FACE TO

FACE, IN JERUSALEM. ARE YOU READY FROM YOUR SIDE TOO?

KAMEL: I DON'T KNOW. . . THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN THE FUTURE.
NOWMR. ATHERTON IS USING HIS GOOD OFFICES BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, AND THEN I UNDERSTAND MR. BEGIN IS GOING TO THE
STATES TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER (INAUDIBLE).

QUESTION: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PEACE
INITIATIVE IS IN WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED A HOLDING POSITION
NOW UNTIL PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT.

KAMEL: MY ENGLISH IS NOT VERY GOOD. WHAT?

QUESTION: HAS EVERYTHING COME TO A STOP FOR THE TIME BEING?

KAMEL: NO. NO. NO. THE TRUTH IS THAT MR. ATHERTON
(INAUDIBLE) AND IS GOING TO JERUSALEM.

QUESTION: WHEN ARE YOU RETURNING MR. ATHERTON?

ATHERTON: IT WILL BE NEXT WEEK SOMETIME. I'M NOT QUITE SURE
ABOUT THE PRECISE TIME. PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

QUESTION: MR. ATHERTON CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU THINK YOU
HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR?

ATHERTON: NO, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS OF
THIS. WE ARE HAVING REALLY QUITE INTENSIVE TALKS, QUITE
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06624 021147Z

DETAILED TALKS, AND IT IS REALLY NOT POSSIBLE TO TRY TO MEASURE
EACH STEP EACH DAY. BUT THE FACT IT IS CONTINUING . . . THAT
I'M HERE, THAT I'M COMING BACK . . . IS EVIDENCE THAT THE
PROCESS IS GOING ON AND IT IS NOT IN ANY SENSE STALLED. THANK
YOU. EILTS

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